

1.3 DESCRIPTION OF SECURITY ACTION

On May 20, 1995, vehicular traffic was restricted on certain portions of streets contiguous to the perimeter of the White House Complex. Pedestrian and bicycle traffic was not restricted on any of these streets. The action is described in detail below.

1.3.1 Introduction

This description summarizes the current vehicular restrictions on public streets surrounding the White House. These restrictions include certain pre-existing vehicular restrictions, described in Subsection A of Section 1.3.2, on streets (Jackson Place, Alexander Hamilton Place, East Executive Avenue extended) near the White House that were not promulgated by the Secret Service. However, at each of these various pre-existing restrictions, the Secret Service has established or increased security on or after May 20, 1995, in the manner indicated. It also includes a description, presented in Subsection B, of the vehicular restrictions carried out by the Secret Service on or after May 20, 1995. See Figure 1-2 at the end of Chapter 1 for a map of the vehicular restrictions.

Specific vehicular restrictions on these streets constitute several types: (1) streets upon which access is limited to police, fire, ambulance, and motorcade use; (2) streets upon which access is limited to vehicles gaining access to the White House Complex, or vehicles with parking permits; or (3), streets upon which limited public parking is permitted.

1.3.2 Description of Restrictions and Security Action

A. Pre-Existing Restrictions

Years before the security action was taken, a number of roadways contiguous to the White House Complex were closed to public vehicular traffic. The following section summarizes these vehicular traffic restrictions and the security controls in effect prior to the action.

Jackson Place from Pennsylvania Avenue north to H Street - Access was previously limited to pedestrians, bicyclists, and authorized vehicles. Parking and use were restricted to permit holders and authorized vehicles. Concrete security barriers had been installed across a section of the southern end of the roadway at the intersection with Pennsylvania Avenue.

West Executive Avenue from Pennsylvania Avenue south to State Place - This section of West Executive Avenue lies within the secure perimeter of the White House Complex. Access and parking were previously limited to authorized vehicles.

East Executive Avenue from Pennsylvania Avenue south and west to E Street - East Executive Avenue has been closed to through traffic for a number of years. Access was limited to pedestrians, bicyclists, and authorized vehicles. Parking on the roadway was restricted to permit holders and authorized vehicles.

Alexander Hamilton Place from East Executive Avenue east to 15th Street, NW - This roadway was previously closed to through traffic. Access was limited to pedestrians, bicyclists, and authorized vehicles. Parking on the roadway was restricted to permit holders and authorized vehicles.

B. Restrictions and Security Controls Implemented as part of the May 20, 1995 Security Action (For Security Reasons and Traffic Flow Purposes)

Pennsylvania Avenue (1600 Block) from Madison Place west to 17th Street, NW - This section of Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House Complex was closed to public vehicular traffic. Access is now limited to pedestrians, bicyclists, and authorized vehicles (generally police, fire, ambulance, and motorcade). The perimeter of the avenue was secured by concrete barriers and planters, placed along the north side of Lafayette Park between Jackson Place and Madison Place, and across the east and west ends of Pennsylvania Avenue, at 17th Street and at Madison Place.

In addition, Secret Service Uniformed Division vehicles were positioned at the following points of access to the avenue:

- (1) Pennsylvania Avenue at 17th Street.
- (2) Jackson Place at H Street.
- (3) Madison Place at H Street
- (4) Pennsylvania Avenue between Madison Place and 15th Street

These access control points control access to Pennsylvania Avenue by authorized vehicles entering from 17th Street, from H Street (via Jackson Place and Madison Place), and from 15th Street.

Pennsylvania Avenue (1500 Block) from Madison Place east to 15th Street - The western portion of this block of Pennsylvania Avenue was closed to public traffic. Access was limited to pedestrians, bicyclists, and authorized vehicles. The roadway was secured by concrete barriers and planters and a Secret Service Uniformed Division vehicle, positioned approximately 30 yards east of Madison Place. The eastern portion remains open. Public parking was increased in the area and access is permitted to pedestrians, bicycles, and other traffic.

Madison Place from Pennsylvania Avenue north to H Street - Madison Place was closed to public vehicular traffic. Access is limited to pedestrians, bicyclists, and authorized vehicles. The north end of the roadway is secured by concrete barriers and a Secret Service Uniformed Division vehicle.

Alexander Hamilton Place - Alexander Hamilton Place was previously restricted to authorized vehicles. Concrete barriers and a Secret Service Uniformed Division vehicle were positioned on the roadway at 15th Street to control unauthorized vehicle access.

E Street, westbound / South Executive Avenue / State Place - The westbound lanes of E Street, South Executive Avenue and State Place, south of the White House Complex, between 15th Street and 17th Street were restricted to access by authorized vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists. E Street westbound was restricted for traffic flow purposes as part of the immediate traffic management response. The eastbound lanes of E Street, from 17th Street east to 15th Street, remain open to through traffic.

Concrete barriers were placed in the following locations:

- The west sidewalk of 15th Street from Alexander Hamilton Place south to E Street;
- The north sidewalk and the adjacent westbound lane of E Street, from 15th Street west to East Executive Avenue. The westbound lanes of E Street are now separated from the eastbound lanes by a combination of a median strip and concrete barriers;
- The north sidewalk of E Street, from South Executive Avenue west to 17th Street; and
- The east sidewalk of 17th Street, from E Street north to State Place.

A number of security access control points were established to control vehicle access to the secured roadways. These access control points are operated by Secret Service Uniformed Division Officers at the following locations:

- E Street at East Executive Avenue - Access control points for vehicles accessing restricted westbound lanes of E Street, East Executive Avenue, and Alexander Hamilton Place;
- South Executive Avenue at E Street - Access control point for vehicles accessing the White House and State Place from both eastbound and westbound E Street; and
- State Place at 17th Street - Access control point for vehicles exiting State Place to 17th Street and New York Avenue.

Parking on State Place, South Executive Avenue, and restricted portions of E Street, is open to authorized vehicles and permit holders.